



WAID
ASRAR
GODLEWSKI
BELLAIRE

BATMAN vs. ROBIN

A LEGACY
FULFILLED

THE
DEMON
RISES



AGES 13+
DC.COM

Are we driven by love or obsession?



**BATMAN
ONE BAD DAY**

MR. FREEZE #1

GERRY DUGGAN

MATTEO SCALERA



The fourth of eight 64-page Prestige format
specials starring the Dark Knight's
worst enemies in their best stories yet.

November



MASTER BRUCE,
WHILE I'M GRATEFUL FOR
OUR NEWFOUND TRANSPORT...
HOW DO YOU SUPPOSE THE
BOY WAS **UNWARE** OF THE
OLDER HANGAR?

DAMIAN'S **WELL
AWARE** OF ALL MY
RESOURCES AND CONTINGENCIES,
ALFRED. I SUSPECT HE LEFT THE
PLANE, AND **ONLY** THE PLANE,
ON **PURPOSE**.

HE **WANTS** US TO
GET TO LAZARUS
ISLAND.

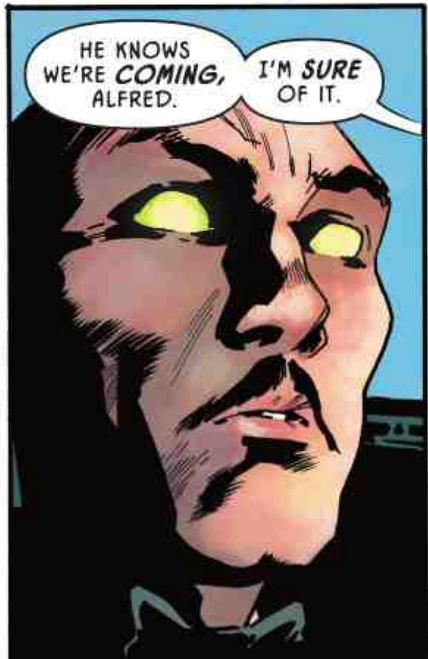


WE CAN'T
COUNT ON
BACKUP FROM
THE **FAMILY**,
EITHER.

**BATWOMAN,
SIGNAL, THE
BATGIRLS...**



"...HE'S DONE **SOMETHING** TO LEAVE
THEM ALL **INCOMMUNICADO**."



HE KNOWS
WE'RE **COMING**,
ALFRED.

I'M **SURE**
OF IT.

THE
BATMAN'S
EN ROUTE.
IT'S *TIME*,
DAMIAN.



THANK YOU,
MOTHER SOUL.

MY **ROBINS** WILL
NOT GO INTO BATTLE
UNARMED.

TO YOU,
TIMOTHY DRAKE...
THE **CLOAK OF**
CAGLIOSTRO.



TO YOU,
JASON TODD...
THE **TRIDENT OF**
POSEIDON.



TO YOU,
STEPHANIE
BROWN...THE
COUP-STICK
OF BLACK
BISON.



AND TO
YOU, **DICK**
GRAYSON...THE
MOST POWERFUL
WEAPON OF
THEM **ALL...**THE
SWORD OF
SIN.



LAZARUS ISLAND.

BATTLE STATIONS, EVERYONE.

BY SUNSET, FATHER WILL BE DEAD.



Batman...Gotham City's Dark Knight Detective. Robin...son of Batman and heir to the al Ghul dynasty. The Boy Wonder has aspired to walk his father's path of righteousness...but his demonic lineage has been reignited. For months, Robin has traveled the world, disowned by Batman and the heroes of Gotham City. His sojourn has brought him to LAZARUS ISLAND, where an ancient evil beckons him...and a deadly magical threat from Batman's past stands poised to murder the Caped Crusader and tear the world asunder...

BATMAN vs. ROBIN

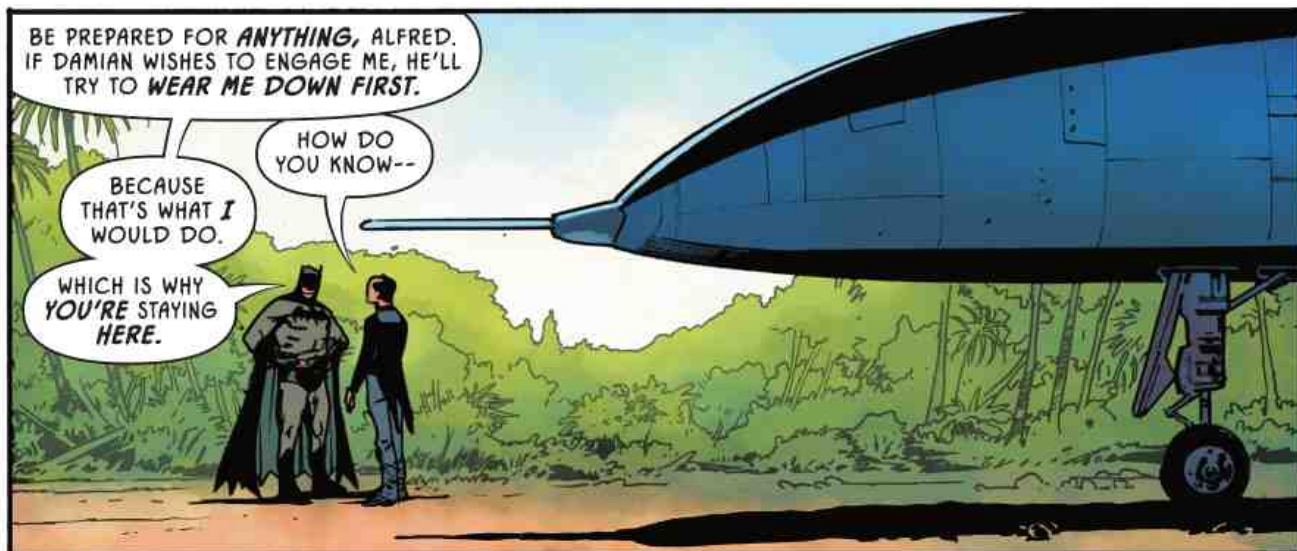
Chapter Three: The Island

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Batman created by Bob Kane with Bill Finger





...AFTERWARD,
SEE TO IT THAT THE
AL GHUL INTERESTS
ARE FULLY PROTECTED
IN THE CHINESE
TERRITORIES.

YES, **LADY TALIA**.

AS YOU
COMMAND.



HELLO,
MOTHER.

DAMIAN...?

I...DIDN'T
HEAR YOU **ENTER**.
WHY...WHY DID I THINK
YOU WERE WITH YOUR
FATHER...?



"**WITH**" ISN'T
REALLY THE WORD
YOU'RE **LOOKING**
FOR.

ALTHOUGH I
KNOW HOW **DELIGHTED**
YOU ALWAYS ARE TO **RID**
YOURSELF OF MY
PRESENCE.

SON--



NO. I'M TALKING
NOW. STOP CALLING
YOURSELF A **MOTHER**.
YOU'RE NOTHING OF
THE **SORT**.

MOTHERS
ARE **KIND**.
NURTURING.

GOOD MOTHERS
DON'T PROGRAM
THEIR **CHILDREN** TO
BECOME **KILLING**
MACHINES.



...I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT. THEY RAISE **SOFT LITTLE BOYS** WHOSE LIVES HAVE LITTLE OR NO **PURPOSE**.

YOU SHOULD BE **THANKING** ME.

DON'T GIVE ME THAT **CONDESCENDING SMILE**, YOU **OFFICIAL HARRIDAN**.



AND DO NOT TAKE A **TONE** WITH ME, DAMIAN.

I...**ADMIT**, I HAVE NOT ALWAYS BEEN... **AFFECTIONATE**.

YOU'VE TRIED TO **KILL** ME.

I'VE **CHANGED**.



HAVE YOU, NOW?

WHEN **GRANDFATHER RA'S** WANTED TO CHANGE FOR THE BETTER, HE SURRENDERED **EVERYTHING** AND GAVE HIMSELF TO THE **AUTHORITIES**.*

HE KNEW THAT IT'S NOT **ENOUGH** SIMPLY TO SAY, "**I'M DIFFERENT NOW**." YOU HAVE TO **TAKE ACTION** TO **PROVE** IT. YOU HAVE TO **ANSWER** FOR PAST SINS.

*IN THE NOW-CLASSIC **BATMAN: SHADOW WAR** --PK



HOW ARE **YOU** WILLING TO PAY FOR **YOURS**?





BE THANKFUL
I MADE IT
COMFORTABLE.

THERE'S A FOOT TRAIL THROUGH THE JUNGLE LEADING, PRESUMABLY, TO DAMIAN AS WELL AS HIS MARTINETES...NEZHA AND MOTHER SOUL. IT'S A CLEAR PATH.

WHICH IS WHY I'M NOT FOLLOWING IT ON FOOT.

NEVER PLAY BY THE ENEMY'S RULES. NOT IF YOU WANT TO SURVI--

SHNFFF

KEEP YOUR GUARD UP, OLD MAN.

THAT'S TIM'S VOICE. IT'S TOO CLOSE FOR HIM TO BE HIDING IN THE TREES, WHICH MEANS--

THAK

YOU'RE INVISIBLE.



⇒WHHHFF⇒

NOTHING
NEW.

NOT WITH
DAMIAN
AROUND.

I WAS YOUR
ROBIN FOR YEARS!
AND I WAS **DAMN**
GOOD AT IT!

WHAM

⇒NNNGH!⇒

AND THE
MINUTE--THE
MINUTE--DAMIAN
CAME ON THE
SCENE, HE
REPLACED
ME--



--AND YOU
SAID **NOTHING!**
I **DISAPPEARED**
IN YOUR EYES!

⇒UNGGH!⇒

AS WITH **DAMIAN**,
POSSESSED TIM IS LAYING
BARE HIS DEEPEST-BURIED
GRIEVANCES. I CAN'T TAKE
THEM **PERSONALLY**.

TIM, YOU
DIDN'T **NEED** ME
ANYMORE! I **KNEW**
YOU WERE
DOING--

--DOING
FINE ON YOUR
OWN!





THIS IS WHAT I
TELL MYSELF.



BUT THAT DOESN'T
MAKE HIM WRONG.
COULD I HAVE DONE
BETTER BY TIM?

I'M STARTLED BY HOW
HEAVILY THAT QUESTION
WEIGHS. I'M TRYING NOT
TO LET IT DISTRACT ME.



WITHOUT THE INVISIBLE
EDGE GRANTED BY THAT
CLOAK, TIM'S VULNERABLE.

AS BRILLIANT A
COMBATANT AS HE IS,
HIS GREATEST SKILL IS
AS A DETECTIVE--



--WHICH DOESN'T
HELP HIM VERY
MUCH RIGHT NOW.

STILL, I HAVE TO STAY
HYPERVIGILANT. I'VE
ALREADY WRENCHED
MY SHOULDER...

...AND THIS IS
HARDLY DAMIAN'S
ONLY TRAP.



YOU...YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND...

I'M NO...NO COMMONER LIKE THEM! I'M A QUEEN! THE QUEEN OF FABLES! I TURN FICTION INTO REALITY!

I CAN HELP YOU!

I...WE ALL... WE'VE DONE EVERYTHING YOU'VE ASKED OF US!

TRUE.

NOW I'M THROUGH ASKING.

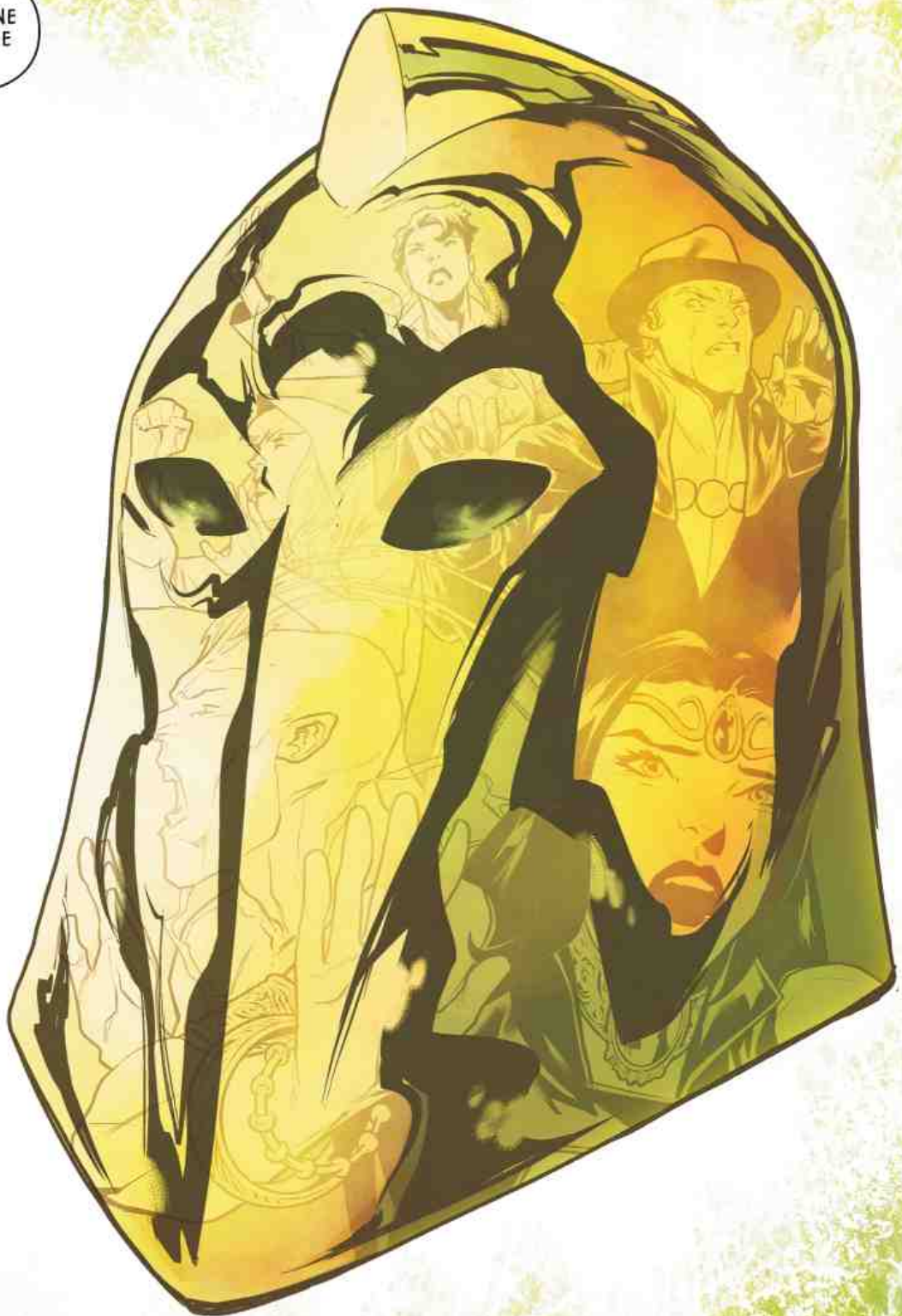
ALICE?

PLEASE... NO...

EYAAAAA!

THAT'S IT, DEAR GIRL. DEPOSIT HER MAGIC INTO THE GRAND RELIQUARY...

...JUST AS
YOU'VE DONE
WITH ALL THE
OTHERS.





SSSSH. YOU MAY NOT BE QUITE **FINISHED**, SWEETHEART.

IT HURTS
IT HURTS IT HURTS

"I HEAR WE HAVE A **NEW ARRIVAL**."



WHERE **IS** HE?

ALL THESE **CENTURIES** AND YOU NEVER LEARNED **SMALL TALK**?



WHO--?

⇒PTOO←

NAME'S **ZHU BAJIE**. **PIGSY** TO MY **FRENEMIES**.
YEAH, YOUR **PARTNER** AND I GO WAY, **WAY BACK**.

*SEE PIGSY'S CAPTURE UNFOLD IN NEXT MONTH'S **MONKEY PRINCE** #9! --PK





THE TRAIL'S BEGINNING
TO WIDEN INTO A
CLEARING--

--MAKING IT MORE
CRITICAL THAN EVER
TO STAY RELATIVELY--



--HIDDEN.

!



VINES...ALIVE...

IN A BLINK, I FEEL THE
FAMILIAR POP OF ONE
BREAKING RIB AND HEAR
THE CREAK OF THE REST.



WHO'S NEXT IN
DAMIAN'S GUANTLET?
POISON IVY?

ZZZZTT



NO. MY SON
IS WORKING
A THEME.

I'D HANG
ON TO THAT
LASER IF I WERE
YOU.

I'M JUST
GETTING
STARTED.

ANOTHER
EX-ROBIN.
STEPHANIE
BROWN.

THE ONLY
ROBIN I EVER
HAD TO FIRE.

OR, TO HEAR
HER TELL IT...

YOU NEVER TOOK
ME *SERIOUSLY*! YOU
ALWAYS MADE ME FEEL
LIKE A *MASCOT*,
NOT A ROBIN!

I WAS
CLAY IN YOUR
HANDS!

YOU
COULD HAVE
MADE ME INTO
ANYTHING!

AND YOU
DIDN'T EVEN
BOTHR TRYING!

THERE'S TRUTH IN THAT. I COULD
HAVE TAKEN THE TIME TO TRAIN
HER BETTER, BUT I DIDN'T.



STEPHANIE'S NOW
A BATGIRL UNDER
BARBARA GORDON'S
TUTELAGE--

--ONLY BECAUSE
BARBARA HAS
MORE PATIENCE
THAN I DO.



CURIOUS. EVEN
WIELDING BLACK
BISON'S COUP-
STICK, SHE'S LESS
OF AN OBSTACLE
THAN MY FIRST
OPPONENT.



AND YET, DAMIAN
LED WITH TIM RATHER
THAN STEPHANIE,
SUGGESTING...

...SHE'S NOT ALONE.

GGGGFFFF!~

FWASHHHH

JASON.

ROBIN
NUMBER
TWO.

THE
VIOLENT
ONE.

DON'T
WORRY,
BRUCE.

THWAM

I'VE
GOT YA.





...KNOWING I'D BECOME ONE
OF THE COWARDLY LOT.



INJURED RIBS, SOME BLOOD LOSS,
AND A SLIGHT CONCUSSION...BUT
I'M STILL STANDING, DAMIAN.



THAT'S TIM, STEPHANIE,
AND JASON.

IF IT'S ATTACK OF THE
ROBINS, THAT LEAVES
ONLY THE FIRST ONE.



HAND-TO-HAND,
THE TOUGHEST OF
THEM ALL.





I
KNOW
YOU.

YEAH, WE'VE
MET. YOU WERE *NICER*
THEN. MARGINALLY.*
NOW YOU'RE A
PUPPET.

I HAVE A
QUESTION.

*IN MONKEY PRINCE #2 --PK



I DON'T
CARE.

C'MON, KID.
I'M *SENSITIVE*
TO THIS STUFF. I
CAN FEEL IT.

DEEP DOWN,
THERE'S A PART
OF YOU PUSHING
AGAINST NEZHA'S
CONTROL.



OR ELSE YOU
WOULDN'T BE
STANDING
HERE.



...
WHAT'S
YOUR
QUESTION?

WHAT
THE HELL DO
YOU GET
OUT OF ALL
THIS?

NEZHA, I
UNDERSTAND.
NEZHA'S GONNA USE
EARTH'S MAGIC TO
ENSLAVE THIS **ENTIRE**
PLANET.

HE WANTS
AN ARMY NEARLY
EIGHT BILLION
STRONG. KNOW
WHY? WHAT, HE
NEVER **SAID?**

TO USE
AGAINST AN **EVEN**
MORE POWERFUL
DEMON NAMED
KING FIRE
BULL.



HIS
SON.

EFFECTIVELY.
HOW DOES THIS
"MOTHER SOUL"
FIGURE IN?

THAT PART
OF YOU THAT'S
FIGHTING NEZHA'S
CONTROL?
PUSH.



SCORCHED EARTH. SHE
WANTS A NEW **GARDEN OF**
EDEN TO MANIPULATE. AN
EARTH WITH ALMOST NO
HUMANS LEFT TO
"POISON" IT.

BASICALLY,
THE SAME GOALS AS
HER **ECOTERRORIST**
SON, RA'S AL
GHUL...
TIMES **TEN.**





THEN MY
QUESTION *STANDS*.
WHAT DOES THAT
LEAVE FOR *YOU*?

I...I...



THAT'S WHAT I
FIGURED.

KID--*DAMIAN*--*HEAR ME OUT*.
I'VE KNOWN NEZHA SINCE WE
WERE *BOTH YOUNG*. HE USED
TO BE A *HERO*, DID
YOU KNOW *THAT*?

THAT'S...
DEFINITELY
NEW.

WHAT
TURNED HIM?

"ULTIMATELY? ALL THIS
LAZARUS JUICE HE USES TO
MAKE HIM *IMMORTAL* AND
PUMP UP HIS *MAGIC*. IT'S
CORRUPTIVE. CORROSIVE
TO HIS *SOUL*."



...I SEE.

THIS
CORRUPTION...
CAN IT BE
REVERSED?



IT ISN'T
CORRUPTION!



IT'S
CLARITY.

MMMMMPHH!



MOTHER SOUL,
HAVE **BLACK ALICE**
ADD THIS ONE TO
THE **RELIQUARY.**

DAMIAN, DISREGARD
THE **PRATTING** OF
OUR **CAPTIVE.**



PREPARE
THE **ARENA.**



I'M BEING USHERED
TOWARDS A CAVERN IN
THE DISTANCE. IT MAY AS
WELL HAVE THE WORD
"TRAP" PAINTED ON IT,
BUT IT IS WHAT IT IS.

NO FLARES LEFT,
BUT THE COWL
HAS NIGHT
LENSES, SO--



MASTER
BRUCE! THANK
GOD YOU'RE
ALIVE!

IT'S MASTER
DICK! HE'S--

I SEE
HIM.

QUITE
A DRAMATIC
ENTRANCE.



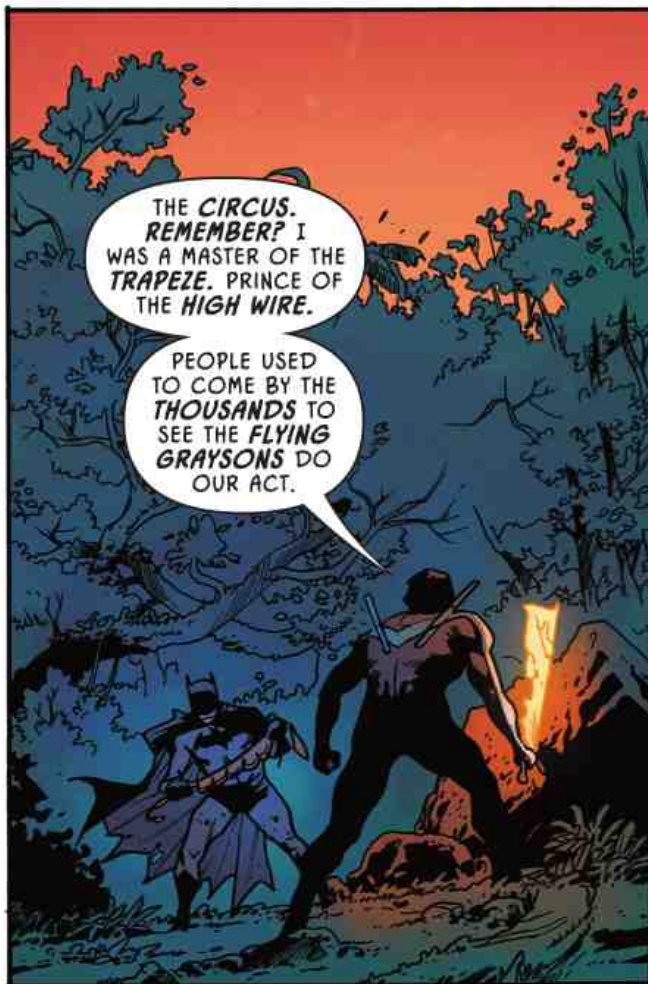
YOU
KNOW ME.
FOREVER THE
SHOWMAN.



DAMN IT.
BELT'S
EMPTY--



--BUT THAT DOESN'T
MAKE IT USELESS.



THE *CIRCUS*.
REMEMBER? I
WAS A MASTER OF THE
TRAPEZE. PRINCE OF
THE HIGH WIRE.

PEOPLE USED
TO COME BY THE
THOUSANDS TO
SEE THE *FLYING*
GRAYSONS DO
OUR ACT.



THEIR APPLAUSE
WAS *ELECTRIC*. THE
RUSH WAS
UNBELIEVABLE.

THEN YOU--
YOU TOOK ME AWAY
FROM THE JOY OF
RECOGNITION--



--AND *HID*
DICK GRAYSON
BEHIND A
MASK!

HE--HE NEVER *SAID*
THAT BEFORE--SHOULD
I HAVE REALIZED--?



OH, I COULD STILL
SHOW OFF--SO
LONG AS NO ONE
EVER KNEW IT
WAS *ME*.

ROBIN
LIVED SO THAT
DICK GRAYSON
COULD *DIE*.



DAMIAN SAID SOMETHING
SIMILAR. THAT I COULD HAVE
GIVEN ANY OF THESE KIDS AN
ORDINARY, NORMAL LIFE,
FREE OF DANGER.



INSTEAD--
MY GOD--



--WHAT KIND
OF MONSTER
AM I?



I DON'T DESERVE TO
WIN HERE. WHO AM I TO
FIGHT THEM, PUNISH
THEM, SIMPLY FOR--

--FOR--

WAIT.

THAT
SWORD.

IT'S AZRAEL'S
SWORD OF SIN.

IT MANIFESTS
GUILTS AND
DOUBTS IN AN
OPPONENT'S MIND
AND MAGNIFIES
THEM.

WEAPONIZES
THEM.

IT'S BEEN WORKING ON MY
HEAD SINCE I ARRIVED.
THAT'S BEEN THE REAL
BATTLE ALL ALONG.



WELL PLAYED,
DAMIAN.

I'M RUNNING ON
FUMES--BUT I CAN
STILL TURN THIS
FIGHT AROUND--

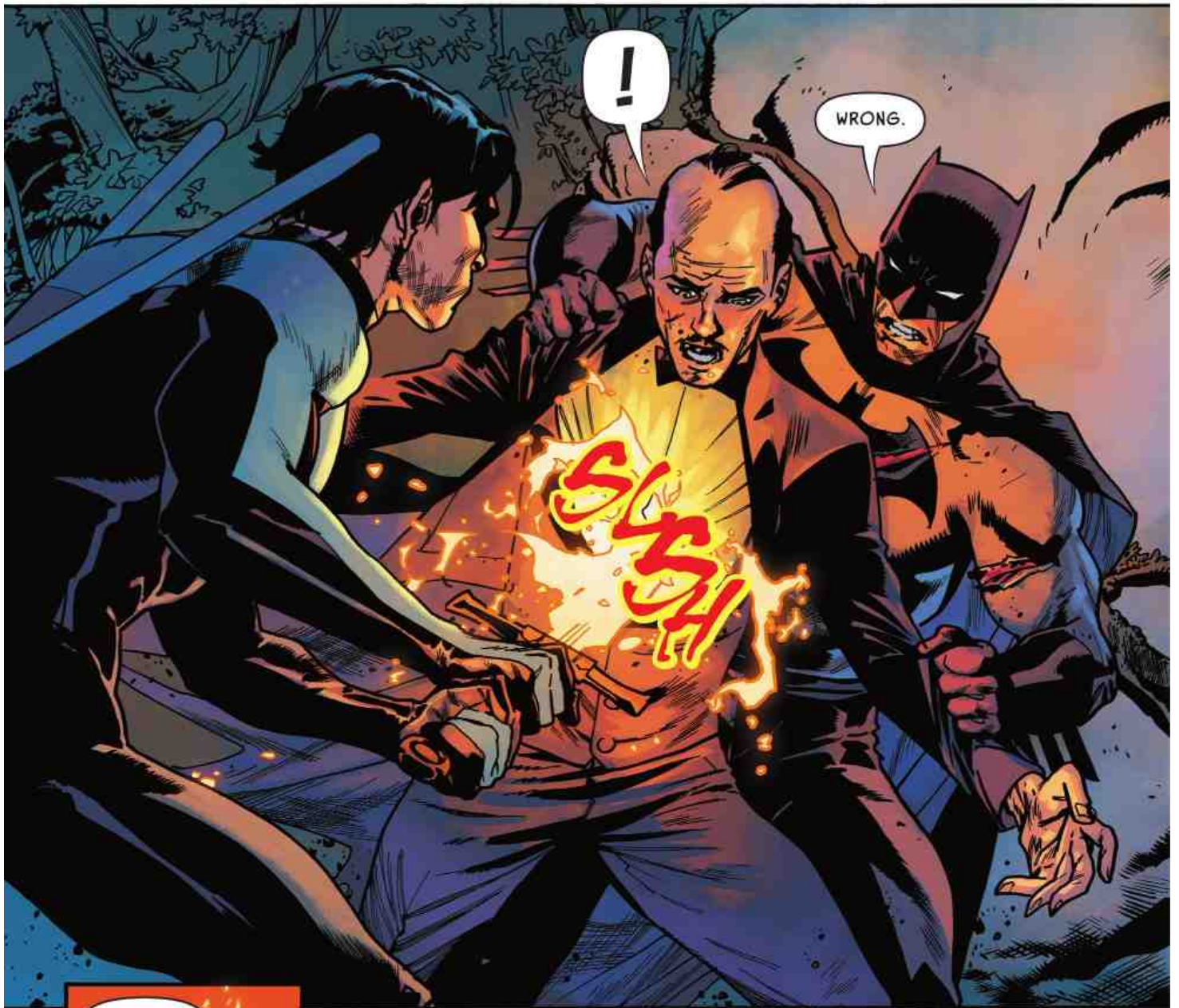
GHAAAAH!

TOO LITTLE,
TOO LATE,
BRUCE.

I'M UNDER
ORDERS. DAMIAN
DEMANDED THAT HE
GET THE KILLING
BLOW--









YOU...
Y-YOU
KNEW...?

THAT
YOU WERE
A SPY?

I KNEW
THREE
MINUTES IN.
AND YOU KEPT
CONFIRMING
IT.



"ALFRED
DESPISES
OOLONG
TEA."



"HE HAS NO
GRANDDAUGHTER."



"THERE WAS NO
'RIDDLER'S
LABYRINTH.'"



YOU KNEW ENOUGH
ABOUT ALFRED'S LIFE
TO ANSWER ALL MY
QUESTIONS.

BUT NOT
ENOUGH TO
CONTRADICT
ME WHEN YOU
THOUGHT I WAS
TELLING THE
TRUTH.



I PLAYED
ALONG SO
AS NOT TO
ALERT YOUR
MASTER.

NOW I WANT
YOU TO TELL HIM
I'M COMING.
GIVE HIM A
MESSAGE.

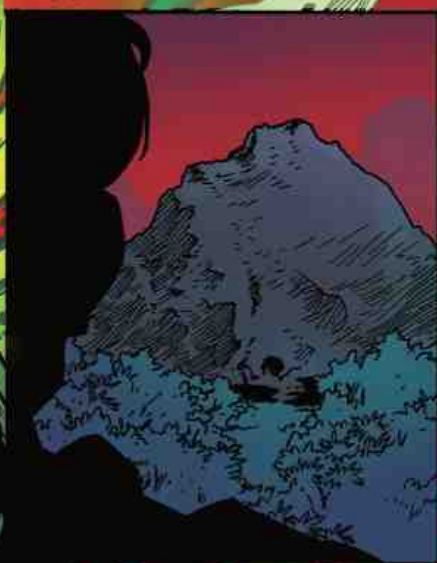
I AM NOT
LEAVING HERE
WITHOUT--



--WITHOUT--

->NNGH<-

--WITHOUT--



IMPOSSIBLE. THAT
VOICE... SOFTER
THAN BEFORE,
MORE GENTLE...



...BRUCE...

...AUTHENTIC...

NO! THIS IS JUST
ANOTHER TRICK.
TELL YOUR MASTER
I WON'T--



IT'S...
NOT, MASTER
BRUCE.

IT'S...
REALLY ME...
IN A SENSE.



"TO PROPERLY...REPLICATE ME,
NEZHA REQUIRED...THE TINIEST
ECHO OF...MY ACTUAL SOUL.
THE FAINTEST WHISPER.

"HE HAD TO
CRACK THE
DOOR TO THE
AFTERLIFE TO
SEIZE IT.

"AND NOW IT'S
FADING."



THE
SWORD--
MY GOD, I
KILLED--



NO, BRUCE.
I'M NOTHING BUT
A SHADOW. THIS
WAS NEVER A
WAY BACK FOR
ME.

BUT I REFUSE
TO GO UNTIL
YOU ACCEPT
SOMETHING...

DAMIAN IMAGINES
THAT YOU BLAME HIM
FOR MY DEATH. YOU
DO NOT. YOU, OF
COURSE, BLAME
YOURSELF.



AND I WILL
NOT ALLOW
IT.



DO YOU HEAR ME?
YOU WERE HALF A WORLD
AWAY. NOT EVEN YOU COULD
HAVE POSSIBLY PREVENTED
IT. THIS IS UNNECESSARY
REMORSE.

AND I CAN FIND
NO PEACE WHILE
WATCHING YOU CARRY
AN UNEARNED
BURDEN.



BUT--



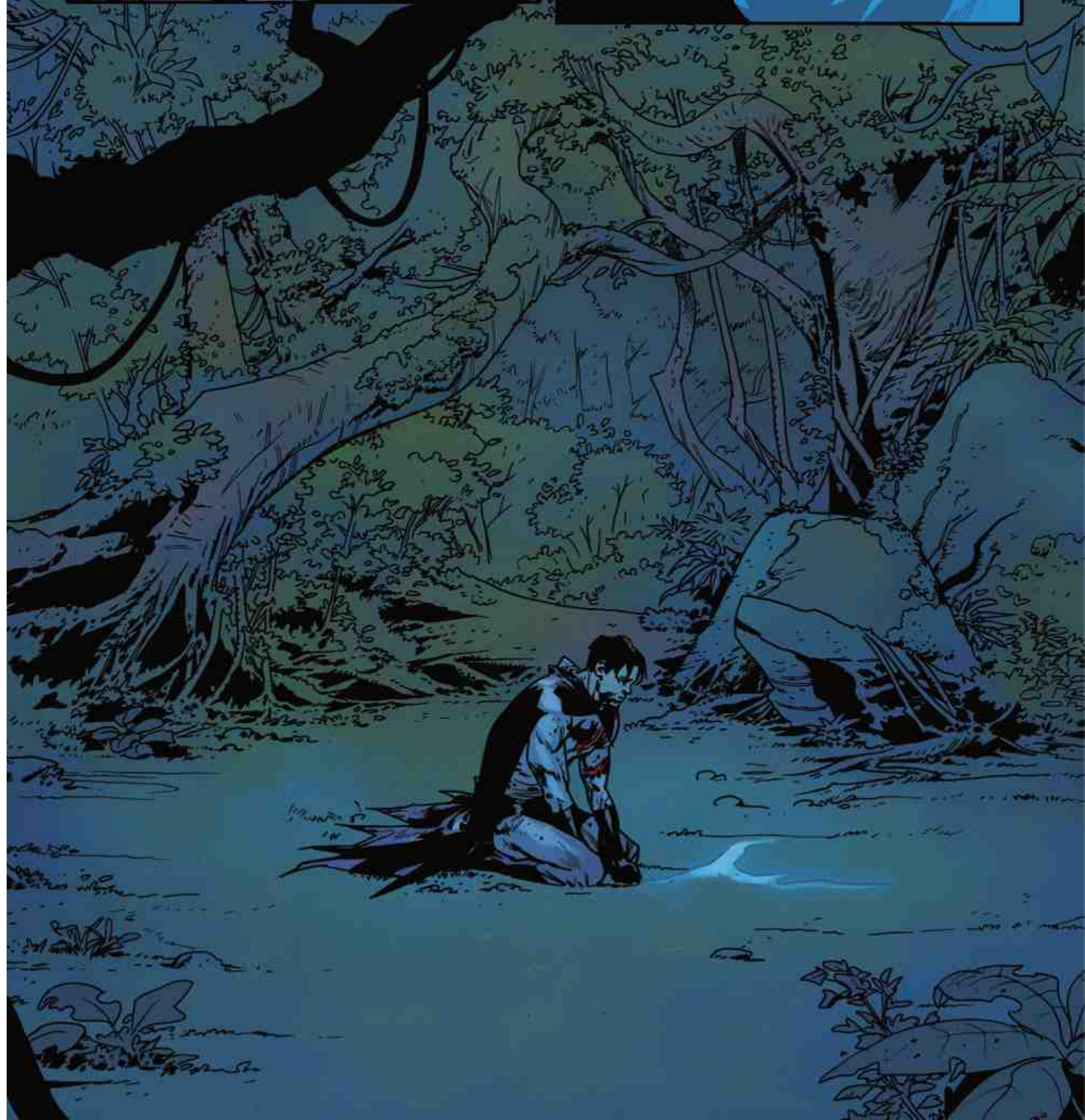
BRUCE.
STOP. DO YOU
REALLY WISH FOR ME
TO BE DISQUIETED
FOR ALL
ETERNITY?



I KNEW THE LIFE.
I ACCEPTED THE RISKS.
DON'T CHEAT ME OF
AGENCY, OR I SHALL BE
QUITE CROSS.

NEZHA EXPLOITED
A WOUND IN YOU. I'M
ASKING YOU TO CLOSE
IT SO YOU MAY FIND
STRENGTH IN THAT
HEALING.

YOU'LL
NEED IT TO
SAVE MASTER
DAMIAN.





NEXT: THE SACRIFICE

THESE MISSING SIDEKICKS FROM THE PAST ARE THE KEY TO DC'S FUTURE!

STARGIRL

THE LOST CHILDREN



WRITTEN BY
GEOFF JOHNS

ART BY
TODD NAUCK

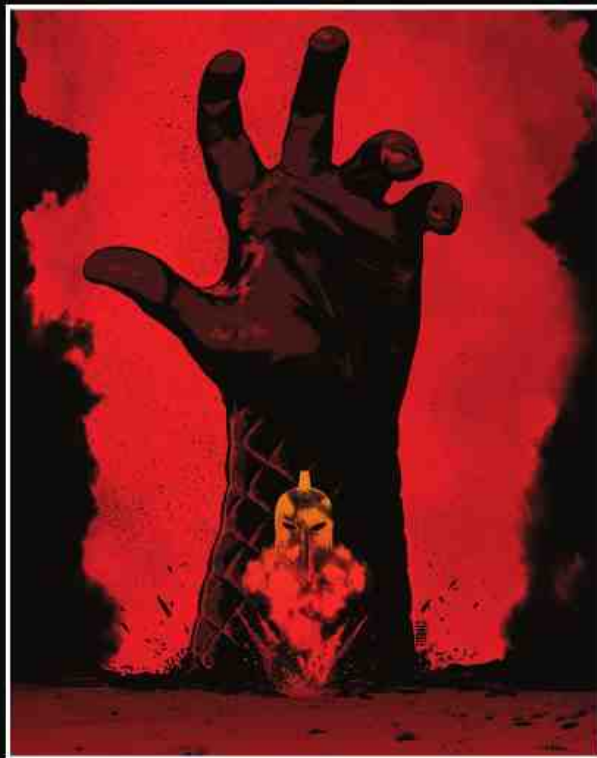
NOVEMBER
6 ISSUES



KING FORNÉS STEWART DANGER STREET

The *Rorschach* team of writer Tom King and artist Jorge Fornés reunite for a new 12-issue DC Black Label series—*Danger Street*, a gripping, multilayered crime drama featuring reimagined and updated versions of some of DC's most offbeat superheroes, each of whom was first seen in the 1970s series *DC 1st Issue Special*.

The characters of *Danger Street* originate from the more obscure corners of the DC Universe—so we've opened up Fornés's sketchbook to give you a closer look at the series' main characters, along with commentary from King.



**DON'T MISS
DANGER STREET #1,
ON SALE IN DECEMBER!**



"The breakout DC character of 2022."



"He's like The Joker but, y'know, a good guy Joker. Oh, and he hosts a nightly news show your parents never miss."



"12-year-old billionaires. What do you get for the kid who has everything?"



"In the end, it all comes down to them."

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The Last Kryptonian-DCP

